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ALASKA RESOURCES LIBRARY
U.S. Department of the Interior

Alaska

Bureau of Land Management

BLM ORGANIZATION AND PRINCIPAL OFFICES

State Office - 555 Cordova Street, Anchorage
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Chief, Division of Lands and Minerals Pgm.
Management

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Management

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Fire Control Stations - Anchorage
(on Elmendorf AFB)

Walter J. Rust
Chief

Fairbanks
(3½ Mi. Airport Road)

Craig E. Smith
Chief

Field Stations - Juneau

H. Douglas Gray
Area Manager

Delta Junction

Wallace G. Fixsen
Area Manager

McGrath

William H. Adams
Area Manager

Glennallen

Robert A. Hampson
Area Manager

Finger Lake

Richard D. McCoy
Fire Control Technician

PROGRAM AND ACTIVITIES

Lands and Minerals Programs

1. State Land Selections

a. General Land Grant: The Alaska Statehood Act, effective 1/3/59, granted the State the right to select during the next 25 years 102,550,000 acres from the Federal public domain lands lying south and east of the Porcupine-Yukon-Kuskokwim Rivers. These lands are to become the public land base of Alaska. As of 5/21/66 the State of Alaska had selected 15,833,313 acres.

The Bureau's program is complicated by lack of surveys, the special laws allowing settlement on public lands in Alaska and the undetermined rights of Natives to lands and resources. See Item 3, Native Aboriginal or Possessory Rights.

b. Community Land Grants: The Alaska Statehood Act also allows the State during the next 25 years to select 400,000 acres each from the public domain and the national forests for community purposes. The State had selected 49,405 acres from the public domain as of 5/21/66, and 5,386 acres from national forest lands.

c. Mental Health Lands: The State of Alaska has the right to select one million acres of public domain lands to aid the State in establishing and supporting its own mental health institutions. The selection period expires July 27, 1966. As of 5/21/66, over a million acres had been selected.

d. By Act of January 21, 1929, the Congress established a land grant of 100,000 acres for the University of Alaska. As of 5/21/66 99,460 acres had been selected under this grant and all but 201 acres have been patented.

e. At the time of statehood the State received immediate title to all surveyed school sections (16 and 36 plus section 33 in the Tanana Valley). These totaled 132,744.86 acres.

2. Work Area Approach

In order to best perform necessary field work BLM has divided the state into 9 work areas, five in the Anchorage Land District and four in the Fairbanks district. Field examination of cases is planned by work area and, as resources permit, Bureau motion work and inventory are performed on that basis. Heavy concentrations of demand work, including state selections, have led to increased efforts towards terminating federal administration by title transfer in certain of these areas.

3. Native Aboriginal or Possessory Rights

The Act of May 17, 1884 and subsequent legislation, including the Statehood Act, protects such rights as the Natives and others may have had to lands and resources when Alaska was purchased. With the extension of numerous public land laws to Alaska, or laws specifically enacted for Alaska, protected such rights as were vested in non-Natives. But the rights of Natives have not yet been defined and settled by Congress.

Certain specific laws enacted for Alaska Natives, including the Allotment Act and provisions of townsite law, can or could resolve many of the individual Native claims. Pending regulatory changes, clarifying provisions of the Allotment Act and allowing its more extensive use, will better satisfy individual Native claimants. All Natives were granted citizenship in 1924 and so can also use all the public land laws to meet their needs.

While most individual Native claims can be handled under existing law and regulation, we are faced with a major problem when the Natives assert broad communal claims to lands based on their extensive use in the Natives' traditional way of life (usually referred to as "possessory claims"). The Secretary of the Interior has been requested to make a Native rights determination on some 122 million acres in Alaska, about a third of the state land area. These rights have not been defined, and have not segregated the specified area from operation of the public land laws.

Of major concern to BLM programs, Native groups have protested the selection of nearly five million acres of land by the State of Alaska, based on an infringement of their possessory rights. These protests have resulted in suspension of action on the selections involved.

Until possessory right claims are clearly defined and resolved, a cloud exists on all title transfers previously made in Alaska. Likewise our future programming and planning is made most difficult in the face of these large undefined Native possessory claims.

Minerals and Mineral Leasing

Oil and gas leasing continues to be the major mineral activity in Alaska. For calendar year 1965, the value of oil and gas produced from federal lands was \$35,002,890.48 and royalties amounted to \$3,632,835.30. Production is confined to the Kenai Peninsula. The Soldotna Creek Unit and the Swanson River Unit produced during April 1966 a daily average of 30,638 barrels of oil. There were in the two units 48 producing oil wells and three gas injection wells. The Sterling Unit (one well) and the Kenai Unit (three wells), both gas fields, produced during April 1966 a daily average of 29,511 MCF of gas. (Data from USGS).

The State of Alaska collected over 10 3/4 million dollars in bonuses at the two oil and gas sales held during calendar year 1965. Total mineral production in Alaska during calendar year 1965 was 82 million dollars, an increase of 15 per cent over 1964.

Oil and gas leasing activities on public domain have declined steadily since December 1960 when there were 33,287,119 acres under lease. As of May 31, 1966 there were 5,502 leases on lands under BLM jurisdiction and 9,918,592 acres under lease. Almost every month more leases are terminated than are issued. Leases are being transferred to the State as selected lands are patented. There are 14 unit agreements containing 633,960 acres, and 8 development contracts with 4,101,967 acres.

Japanese engineers and geologists continue to examine base metal ore deposits in Alaska. Kennecott Copper Corporation is developing a high-grade open-pit ore body on the Kobuk River employing Natives trained by the University of Alaska. Interest continues in the Klukwan alluvial iron ore deposits near Haines. Discovery of beryllium in the Nome district caused filing of many mining claims. Hardrock mineral activity as a whole, however, has been relatively quiet although during the summer of 1964 over 500 claims were recorded for magnetite at seven locations on the Alaska Peninsula. Exploratory work has been continued on the claims during the 1965 and 1966 seasons. A state Prospector's Assistance Program (PAP), patterned after the Canadian minerals assistance program, is stimulating interest in hard rock minerals.

Recreation

BLM operates 9 campgrounds in Alaska. Most were constructed under the APW program.

Since statehood there have been no regular funds appropriated for campground construction. In 1965 we received the first funds for maintenance - \$8,000.

The 9 campgrounds have over 300 camping facilities; 2 of the campgrounds are used beyond their capacity.

The potential for recreation in Alaska is unlimited, and should be a major program for BLM. The Steese, Taylor, and Denali highways offer the greatest need and potential.

BLM has taken a leading role in developing coordinated recreation programming for Alaska. The Alaska Outdoor Recreation Guidance Council has resulted from these efforts and has representation from all Federal and State agencies involved in recreation.

By agreement with the State of Alaska, areas of recreation responsibilities are designated. Generally these areas follow the state selection pattern, i.e., the State operates along the primary road system and BLM along the secondary system as well as in the remote areas.

Forest Management

BLM's forest lands in Alaska are equal in size to the entire state of California. After state selection BLM will have at least 50 to 75 million acres of timber land to manage.

In recent years timber sale receipts and appropriations have been declining. Free use has increased. Sales are small and stumpage prices are minimum. Alaska does not have large timber based industries except for two pulp operations at Ketchikan and Sitka.

A public domain timber inventory program was initiated during FY 1965 in the Kuskokwim basin. Present plans call for completion of the Alaska timber inventory by 1971 or 1972. The work is being done in conjunction with the forest survey by the Forest Service Experiment Station at Juneau.

The best immediate prospect for utilization of BLM's Alaska timber resources is log or chip export. The Japanese industry has sent several parties to Alaska to investigate this potential.

In 1965 the total value of record for all forest resources removed from Bureau lands was \$30,000. Most of this value was in free use permits.

Range Management

It is estimated at least 10 million acres of public domain lands in Alaska are suitable for grazing livestock and could support 100,000 head.

The range industry is concentrated on Kodiak Island and in the Aleutians. There are 75 leases covering 5,000 cattle and 20,000 sheep; receipts totaled \$10,000 for 1966.

Alaska has its own grazing law and regulations. Leases are for 20 years at 5 cents per AUM. Leases are located around winter range--usually areas supporting beach rye.

Transportation and isolation are the chief problems of the industry.

The Alaska grazing law limits reindeer leases to Natives. There is no charge. About 25,000 reindeer graze on public domain lands; there are 14 permits covering approximately 10,100,000 acres.

BLM initiated a wildlife habitat management program in Alaska in 1965. An estimated 700,000 big game animals graze on public domain lands. Currently 3 men are working chiefly in wildlife determining critical areas of wildlife habitat, making initial range surveys, and studying opportunities for improvement of wildlife habitat.

Approximately \$150 million in salmon and other commercial fish are harvested annually from Alaskan waters. We estimate 80 per cent of this harvest relies on public lands in one way or another.

Fire Control Activity

Eighty percent of interior Alaska's 225 million acres of forest and range lands requiring protection have been burned one or more times in the past 70 years.

Organized protection from fire began in 1940. Average losses are about one million acres per year, ranging from the largest loss of record (5,000,000 acres in 1957) to the lowest of record (about 3,500 acres in 1964). Average losses for the period 1961-1965 have been reduced to 14,000 acres due to favorable weather and effective control action.

BLM has a small but highly trained mobile fire control organization. Retardant aircraft and smokejumpers are the backbone of the organization. There are no lookouts in the state.

Two major fire control operations centers are maintained at Anchorage and Fairbanks. Sixteen other fire control stations are scattered throughout the state. A new fire control center under construction at Anchorage is scheduled for completion in FY 67.

BLM maintains a radio network connecting base stations, vehicles, aircraft, fire camps, and line personnel.

The State of Alaska has contracted to the Bureau of Land Management the protection of 15,200,000 acres of former public domain lands received by federal grants since statehood.

The protection appropriation amounts to approximately one million dollars annually.

Aircraft Operations

BLM owns and operates 11 aircraft (5 Cessna 180, 4 Grumman Gooses, 1 DC-3, and 1 Aero Commander 500B) to facilitate its programs in Alaska. It charts both fixed and rotary wing aircraft throughout Alaska to meet specific or emergency needs. The fire control and engineering programs are entirely dependent upon aircraft.

Six aerial tankers (B-25's) are chartered each fire season for use in fire suppression. Since 1958 an F-51 has been chartered to provide fast reconnaissance and detection of fires. Known as the "Pink Lady" it has gained nationwide publicity.

The DC-3 and Gooses have been especially adapted for use in aerial drops of both personnel and freight. All of BLM's Alaska operations are oriented around aircraft.

BLM has an aerial camera used in range and forest inventory work, in townsite planning, and in special purpose engineer work. The Aero Commander has been especially adapted for the aerial camera.

Cadastral Survey Program

1. General Background

Statehood for Alaska and, to a minor extent, Bureau reorganization have caused a major increase in the Division of Engineering program in Alaska during the last six years. The extent of this increase is reflected in this tabulation.

| <u>FY</u> | <u>Permanent Employees</u> | <u>Appropriation</u> | <u>Acres Surveyed in Field</u> | <u>Cost Per Acre</u> |
|-----------|--------------------------------|----------------------|------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1958 | 10 | \$ 368,000 | | |
| 1959 | 30 | 687,000 | 57,000 | \$12.00 |
| 1960 | 45 | 1,096,000 | 432,000 | 2.54 |
| 1961 | 65 | 1,132,000 | 1,524,000 | 0.74 |
| 1962 | 70 | 1,621,000 | 2,688,000 | 0.60 |
| 1963 | 82 | 1,805,000 | 2,239,000 | 0.81 |
| 1964 | 81 | 1,835,000 | 1,329,000 | 1.38 |
| 1965 | 79 | 1,804,000 | 2,143,000 | 0.84 |
| 1966 | 63 | 1,739,000 | 2,096,000 | 0.66 |

2. Current Program

State Selections now total approximately 17,082,606 acres; Survey completed and ready for acceptance approximately 242,000 acres; and acres patented 4,150,563.

In FY 1965 we accomplished:

| | |
|--|-----------------|
| State selection surveys | 2,125,700 acres |
| Special isolated surveys-homesites, homesteads | 172 |
| Number of field parties | 18 |
| Permanent personnel | 79 |
| Seasonal personnel for 6 months | 32 |

Fund distribution:

| | |
|--|--------------------|
| Salaries | \$ 655,000 |
| Other operating | 1,013,000 |
| State Director & District Manager cost | 125,000 |
| Fixed | 11,000 |
| | <u>\$1,804,000</u> |

3. General Program

a. Survey of demand cases, homesteads, homesites, etc. A backlog of approximately one year exists in both field and office.

b. Survey of townsites. Emphasis is being placed on survey of townsites with survey of 25 each field season as a possible goal.

c. Survey of Bureau motion work. This program has been seriously affected by State selection work. The State has now selected major part of lands surveyed at time of Statehood. There are no remaining surveyed public lands upon which settlement can be made. There is a growing need to both extend rectangular system surveys and to plan and program Bureau motion work on small tracts, recreation and public use areas.

4. Future Programs

Engineering programs should hold to lower level on State selection work to conform with State's selection program of approximately 1 to 1½ million acres per year. More emphasis is to be placed on extending needed rectangular system along highways and railroad. Acute need exists to plan and survey congested settlement areas around villages, thus reducing high cost of "piece-meal" accommodation of applicants.

5. Special Items

a. Photogrammetric Branch

Approximately 4 million acres of State selection surveys are involved in photogrammetric work performed by this branch. All townsite pre-planning is done by this unit. Other duties are staff photography, photo laboratory work, aerial photography for surveys, fire, range and timber work, and operation of high precision aerial photo camera mounted in BLM aircraft.

b. Electronic Survey Section

This section is chiefly engaged in State selection work. It has developed and put into use highly technical electronic equipment and techniques that have gained national interest in surveying field and helicopter manufacturing field.

c. Development of New Techniques

Statewide, the Division has developed many unusual techniques not previously used by the Bureau or any other engineering organization. These include

- (1) the ABC system of surveys,
- (2) the Cubic Auto-Tape system being used in State selection program. This system provides automatic positioning of helicopters at precomputed and selected points to be monumented,
- (3) parachute jumping from helicopters to clear helicopter ports at survey stations,
- (4) adoption of coordinate systems for large scale public land surveys,
- (5) complex coordination of use of helicopters, aircraft, electronic measuring equipment, electronic computers, photogrammetry and parachute jumpers to accomplish one of largest survey programs BLM has undertaken.

6. Construction Program

FY 1965 program consisted of approximately \$260,000 of mainly APW funds for:

Buildings for fire control at: Central, Galena, Ft. Yukon, Bethel, Cantwell

Recreation site improvements at: Lake Mankomen, Byers Lake, Eklutna Lake.

FY 1966 program includes \$753,000 for first phase and second phase construction of \$1,400,000 building complex at Anchorage (Campbell airstrip site).

7. Communications Program

Conversion of the Bureau's high-frequency radio communications system to single sideband mode was begun early in the 1964 season. Equipment for 15 fixed stations was planned and ordered. Replacement of field-portable, mobile, and airborne units has been delayed awaiting presentation of suitable small SSB units.

Outmoded portable VHF/FM equipment has been phased out with the acquisition of the more compact, higher powered completely transistorized units now available. All airborne FM units were converted to dual-channel transceivers, along with most of our fixed-station and vehicular mobile equipment, in preparation for use with fixed repeaters to serve the Anchorage, Fairbanks, and McGrath areas.

The four-station teletype communications system set up for Fire Control in 1963 was enlarged in 1964 to include ten stations--every station where TT service can be furnished. Weather teletype printers were installed at four key stations.

A survey was made in 1965 by the Communications Engineer from the Director's office to establish the radio communications requirements of BLM in Alaska. Recommendations were made as to the types of communication to be handled via high-frequency single sideband, VHF/FM, teletype, and land-line telephone. Procurement planning for radio equipment is based upon these recommendations.

Alaska

Bureau of Land Management

BLM RESPONSIBILITIES

Total Land Area in Alaska 365,481,600 acres

Area Managed by BLM

Vacant Public Domain 256,662,764 acres
BLM Reserved Land 5,573,122 acres
State Land Under Contract Protection from
Fire by BLM 15,200,000 acres
Public Domain Given Protection from Fire 212,900,000 acres

Alaska

Bureau of Land Management

APPROPRIATIONS

| <u>Management of Lands and Resources</u> | <u>FY 1963</u> | <u>FY 1964</u> | <u>FY 1965</u> | <u>FY 1966</u> |
|---|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Lease and disposal of lands and mineral resources | \$1,266,000 | \$1,186,400 | \$ 802,000 | \$ 639,000 |
| Administration of grazing lands | 32,000 | 33,700 | 49,000 | 48,000 |
| Forestry: | 1,074,400 | 1,244,900 | 1,140,000 | 1,070,000 |
| Forestry | (87,700 | 78,000 | 78,000 | 76,000) |
| Fire Protection | (986,700 | 1,166,900 | 1,062,000 | 994,000) |
| Cadastral Surveys | 1,805,800 | 1,811,010 | 1,804,000 | 1,587,000 |
| Soil and Moisture | -- | 1,000 | -- | -- |
| Maintenance Access Roads | -- | -- | 5,000 | 9,900 |
| Maintenance Physical Facilities | 50,000 | 47,900 | 53,000 | 107,000 |
| | <u>\$4,228,200</u> | <u>\$4,324,910</u> | <u>\$3,853,000</u> | <u>\$3,392,900</u> |
| | <u>1/</u> | <u>1/</u> | <u>1/</u> | <u>1/</u> |
| Construction | | | | |
| Buildings | 77,900 | 23,500 | 380,000 | 475,000 |

1/ Does not include fire suppression

Alaska

Bureau of Land Management

BLM REVENUES FY 1965

| | |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------|
| Filing Fees | \$ 378,371 |
| Mineral leases (rental and royalties) | 7,435,322 |
| Small tract rental | 3,723 |
| Sale of public lands | 109,841 |
| Right-of-way rental | 1,243 |
| Trespass | 499 |
| Copy fees | 23,043 |
| Grazing fees | 10,052 |
| Sale of timber and material | <u>17,659</u> |
| Total | <u>\$7,979,753</u> |
| Distribution to State of Alaska: | |
| July 1, 1964 - June 30, 1965 | \$6,737,412 |

Payments to State of Alaska from Receipts from Federal Lands

| Fiscal Year | O&G | Coal | Total Mineral Permits & Leases | Sale of Public Lands | Sale of School Lands | Other |
|---------------------|-------------|-----------|--------------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|
| <u>2/</u> 1920-1958 | <u>1/</u> | <u>1/</u> | \$4,135,435 | None | None | |
| <u>2/</u> 1959 | \$5,132,375 | \$ 81,314 | 5,213,689 | \$ 9,673 | \$33,535 | |
| <u>2/</u> 1960 | 2,705,605 | 82,334 | 2,787,939 | 12,589 | None | |
| <u>2/</u> 1961 | 3,471,972 | 83,445 | 3,555,417 | 14,091 | 4,411 | |
| <u>2/</u> 1962 | 7,101,377 | 104,225 | 7,205,602 | 12,756 | 400 | |
| <u>2/</u> 1963 | 8,355,874 | 90,253 | 8,446,127 | 11,510 | None | |
| <u>3/</u> 1964 | 8,903,714 | 88,681 | 8,992,395 | <u>1/</u> | <u>1/</u> | <u>4/</u> \$10,645.70 |
| <u>5/</u> 1965 | 6,691,790 | 51,731 | 6,733,421 | <u>1/</u> | <u>1/</u> | <u>6/</u> 3,991 |

1/ No figures available

2/ Tables 114, 120 & 121, Public Land Statistics, 1963, and previous Statistical Appendix publications

3/ First half \$3,618,429.92 Inst. Memo 64-66 (Breakdown to O&G and coal from letters accompanying checks)
Second half 5,373,964.67

4/ Inst. Memo 64-449, no specific breakdown

5/ First half \$2,968,650.64 Copy of letter to State 3/30/65
Second half 3,774,870.63 Copy of letter to State 8/24/65

6/ Copy of letter to State 8/24/65. No specific breakdown

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SELECTION ACREAGES

| | <u>Beginning FY 61</u> | <u>FY 61</u> | <u>FY 62</u> | <u>FY 63</u> | <u>FY 64</u> | <u>FY 65</u> | <u>End of FY 65</u> |
|-------------------------|----------------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|-------------------------|
| <u>University</u> | | | | | | | |
| FC Issued | 36,127 | 27,135 | 19,627 | 10,855.73 | 5,082.88 | 205.18 | 99,032.79 |
| TA'd | 58,727 | 19,313 | 7,846 | 7,858.73 | 5,082.88 | 205.18 | 99,032.79 |
| Selected | 122,069 | -10,242 | - 7,821 | - 5,583.59 | 880.91 | 156.37 | 99,459.69 |
| <u>Mental Health</u> | | | | | | | |
| FC Issued | 1,073 | 6,771 | 40,392 | 113,680 | 183,931 | 52,174 | 398,021 |
| TA'd | 1,319 | 307,319 | 70,050 | 100,603 | 299,976 | 135,943 | 915,208 |
| Selected | 372,755 | 202,392 | 24,280 | 101,302 | 256,990 | 91,414 | 1,049,133 |
| <u>General Purposes</u> | | | | | | | |
| FC Issued | 37,000 | 116,152 | 250,160 | 142,911 | 312,774 | 143,227 | 1,002,224 |
| TA'd | 108,203 | 1,507,960 | 1,810,989 | 709,747 | 5,254,017 | 2,065,900 | 11,456,816 |
| Selected | 4,089,059 | 4,736,615 | 3,099,019 | 389,447 | 2,198,591 | 405,498 | 14,918,229 |
| <u>Community P. D.</u> | | | | | | | |
| FC Issued | 1,085 | | 61 | 617 | 2,897 | 162 | 4,822 |
| TA'd | 1,085 | | 61 | 617 | 2,897 | 423 | 14,935 |
| Selected | 28,755 | -3,350 | 11,374 | -976 | -3,180 | -3,689 | 28,934 |
| <u>National Forest</u> | | | | | | | |
| Selected | | | 1,026 | | -1,026 | 316 | 316 |
| <u>Total</u> | | | | | | | |
| FC Issued | 75,285 | 150,058 | 310,240 | 268,063.73 | 504,684.88 | 195,768.18 | 1,504,099.79 |
| TA'd | 169,334 | 1,834,592 | 1,888,946 | 818,825.73 | 5,561,972.88 | 2,202,469.18 | 12,485,991.79 |
| Selected | 4,612,638 | 4,925,415 | 3,127,878 | 484,189.41 | 2,452,255.91 | 493,695.37 | 16,096,071.69 |

Selection Acreages
FY 66
July 1, 1965 - May 21, 1966

| | FY 66 | End of FY 66 |
|--------------|--------------|---------------|
| <u>Total</u> | | |
| FC Issued | 2,646,462.91 | 4,150,562.70 |
| TA'ed | 741,426.91 | 13,227,418.70 |
| Selected | 986,534.00 | 17,082.605.69 |